

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT //REF: STATE 096982 VICE 09682//

STATE FOR TODMAN AND DUFFEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: CULTURAL INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 096982

1. THE IMPROVEMENT OF CULTURAL RELATIONS, WE ARE CONVINCED, REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN DEMONSTRATING CONCRETELY, AND GIVING ADDED DIMENSION TO, AMERICA'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE PEOPLES AND SOCIETIES OF OUR HEMISPHERE. INDEED, IT IS A PERMANENT INVITATION FOR ALL OF US TO SHOW RECIPROCALLY THE WAYS WE ALL EXCEL, TO A GREATER OR LESSER DEGREE, IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES. IN THIS REGARD, WE APPLAUD AND SUPPORT WHOLEHEARTEDLY THE EXCELLENT INITIATIVE WE UNDERSTAND CU/ARA IS TAKING TO DOUBLE THE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN FY 78. THIS IN ITSELF WOULD GO A CONSIDERABLE WAY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GRANTS AVAILABLE AND, AT THE VERY LEAST,
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RESTORE LEVELS TO THOSE THAT OBTAINED SEVERAL YEARS AGO BUT WHICH HAVE BEEN ERODED BY INFLATION AND SHARPLY RISING ACADEMIC COSTS IN U.S. INSTITUTIONS. THESE THOUGHTS ARE FURTHER DEVELOPED IN THE RATIONALE CONTAINED IN THE CU PORTION OF THE COLOMBIA COUNTRY PLAN, DUE IN THE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 15.

2. BEYOND STRENGTHENING PRESENT LEVELS OF THE COLOMBIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH ITS TWENTY YEAR HISTORY OF SUCCESSFUL URESTIGIOUS PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION, THERE ARE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD AND SHOULD BE MET BY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF SCOPE OF PROGRAM: A) TRIPLE PRESENT LEVELS OF IV PROGRAM. AT PRESENT MODEST LEVEL, AND WITH ALL MISSION ELEMENTS PRESENTING CANDIDATES, CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS SOCIETY UNAVOIDABLY TEND TO BE GIVEN SHORT SHRIFT. PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DEvised, PERHAPS USING DEPARTMENT'S EXCELLENT VEHICLE OF REGIONAL AND MILTI-REGIONAL SEMINARS, FOR THIS IMPORTANT NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY. SUCH CLASSIC VENUES AS IOWA WORKSHOP, BREADLOAF AND ASPEN INSTITUTE COULD BE USED, WITH OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN ARTS PARTICIPATING. B) PERFORMING ARTISTS, INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP. AT PRESENT, OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLOMBIANS, EITHER INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP ARTISTS, TO VISIT AND PERFORM IN THE UNITED STATES ARE MEAGER TO NONEXISTENT. OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN ARTISTS ARE SOMEWHAT BETTER, PARTICULARLY FOR ARTISTS OF LESS THAN THE FIRST MAGNITUDE. BUT VISITS BY GROUPS OF RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE AND SIZE ARE RARE. THERE IS A CLEAR NEED TO INCREASE THIS TOW WAY TRAFFIC SUBSTANTIALLY. CU/ARTS IS UNABLE TO FINANCE MORE THAN ONE YEARLY GROUP VISIT FROM THE US AND CANNOT HELP WITH COLOMBIAN ARTISTS OR GROUPS WISHING TO PERFORM IN THE US. NOR CAN THE OAS, PARTNERS OR SISTER CITY PROGRAMS HELP SUBSTANTIALLY. AN INITIATIVE, SUCH AS A YEARLY FESTIVAL OF THE AMERICAS, WOULD GIVE DRAMATIC EMBODIMENT TO THE CONCEPT OF HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY. FOR THIS PURPOSE, GROUPS OF RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE- UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. AND LATIN AMERICAN -- COULD TOUR THE MAJOR CAPITALS WITH REPRESENTATIVE MUSIC, DANCE AND PERHAPS OPERA. A PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL COULD BE SET UP AS A PERMANENT ADJUNCT TO THE OAS WITH A BUDGET SUFFICIENT TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE.

3. A READY SOURCE OF FUNDS, APART FROM THE CU APPROPRIATED FUNDS MENTIONED ABOVE, MIGHT BE TAPPED FROM ALL THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN RECIPIENTS OF THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND. PROCEEDS OF FUND, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AND THE IDB, COULD GENERATE THE SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES REQUIRED TO MAKE THIS TWO TRAFFIC OF CREATIVE THINKERS, WRITERS AND ARTISTS A REALITY.

4. COLOMBIA HAS AN EXCELLENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT COULD BE USED FOR THE PROPOSED ARTISTIC INTERCHANGE: THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CULTURE (COLCULTURA), UNDER THE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP OF GLORIA ZEA DE URIBE. AS THE OFFICIAL INSTITUTION IN CHARGE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, BUT WITH LIMITED BUDGET, COLCULTURA HAS

WIDE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, INSTITUTIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
EMBASSY RELATIONS WITH COLCULTURA ARE CLOSE AND CORDIAL. THUS, GIVEN THE RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE SUGGESTED PROGRAM OUTLINED ABOVE, AN EFFICIENT, INTERESTED AND HIGHLY CAPABLE ORGANIZATION EXISTS HERE TO IMPLEMENT IT. THE HIGH LEVEL INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THESE CULTURAL INITIATIVES ASSURES A CORRESPONDING LEVEL OF INTEREST HERE AND IS INDISPENSABLE FOR INITIAL RECEPVTIVITY AND TO CONFER THE NEEDED MOMENTUM. THE MISSION WELCOMES THE INITIATIVE AND PLEDGES ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE ENTERPRISE.
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